Perf	ormance	Obje	ectives
And	Instructi	onal	Cues

#### **OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION**

# LESSON PLAN INTRODUCTION

A. Course Title: Ensuring Child Safety Upon Parental Arrest

Instructional Goals: Give a basic knowledge to Cadets on how to deal with a Child when parents are arrested.

**Instructional Objectives:** 

Know the Laws, Recognize Childhood Trauma: The Impact of Parental Arrest, Role of Law Enforcement and the Role of CYFD

**Instructional Methods:** 

Lecture; class participation and chalkboard

Handouts: none

Estimated Time: 2 hour

**Bibliography and Resources:** 

Michie, New Mexico Criminal and Traffic Manuel

Prepared by:	Date:
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**Presentation Date:** 

Approved by: NMLEA INSTR Jan 2014

Revised: 29 Jan 2014

#### Introductions

Instructor:

- Task Force & The Law
- Childhood Trauma: The Impact of Parental Arrest
- Role of Law Enforcement
- · Role of CYFD
- Discussion
- Evaluation
- Since 1991, the number of children with parents in prison has increased by more than 50%.
- 1.1 million incarcerated person are parents to an estimated 2.3 million children.
- More than 7 million children have a parent under some form of correctional supervision.

## **OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION**

Connect for Kids/Child Advocacy

- In a recent study in California, 70% of children who were present at a parental arrest saw their parents being handcuffed.
- 30% of children who witnessed an arrest were confronted with drawn weapons.
- Children's Bill of Rights
- The Law: History and Context of HB 271

The Blue Ribbon Commission on the Welfare of Children of Jailed and Incarcerated Parents was established in May 2006

- Goals
  - 1. Identifying children at time of parental arrest
  - 2. Linking children and their caregivers to services and resources
  - 3. Ensuring children have access to incarcerated parents through visitation
  - 4. Recommendations
- Enact legislation directing that children will be identified upon parental arrest.
- Establish community-based Child Resource Advocates.
- Visitation between jailed and incarcerated parents and their children demonstration sites.
- HB 271

An Act requiring law enforcement to identify minor or dependent children upon an arrest; providing for guidelines and a training program for ensuring child safety upon the arrest of a parent or guardian.

- State or Local Law Enforcement Shall
- Inquire at the time of arrest whether the person is a parent or guardian of minor or dependent children who may be at risk as a result of arrest.
- Make reasonable efforts to ensure safety in accordance with guidelines established by DPS.
- HB 271 Guidelines and Training
- 1) Procedures to ensure law enforcement officers inquire about minor or dependent children.
- 2) Procedures for the proper arrangement of temporary care of children to ensure their safety and well-being.
- 3) Education on the effects trauma and how law enforcement can mitigate the long-term effects.
- The Impact of Parental Arrest on Children
- Why Kids Need Cops
- Parental arrest by definition is a traumatic event for children.

Performance	Objectives
And Instructi	onal Cues

# **OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION**

San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership

- Separation from a parent is also a traumatic event for children.
- Separation Impact
- Anger
- Rejection
- Depression
- Low self-esteem
- Poor school performance
- Developmental delays
- Inadequate social skills
- Trauma
- Lasting effect!
- Children of incarcerated parents spend an average of 6 years 8 months separated from them.
- 10% of children with incarcerated mothers will be placed in foster care.
- More than 60% of parents in prison are held more than 100 miles from home.

Connect for Kids/Child Advocacy; San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership

• The Impact of Trauma

Developmental trauma sets the course and direction of a person's life.

Traumatized children are more likely

to be

substance abusers

**Connect for Kids/Child Advocacy** 

Children of

incarcerated parents

are

6 to 10 times more likely

to end up in

prison

**Connect for Kids/Child Advocacy** 

**Stress-Trauma Continuum** 

- ACTIVITY
- Identify a trauma that you have experienced. Think about what your body's reaction was.
- Can you still describe the details of the trauma today?

## **OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION**

- How old were you?
- Does the memory of this trauma ever "pop" into your mind?
- Has the trauma changed your life in any way?
- · Childhood Trauma Matters

Childhood trauma has a profound impact on the emotional, behavioral, cognitive, social, and physical functioning of children.

Acute adaptive states, when they persist, can become maladaptive traits. Bruce Perry, et. al.; Childhood Trauma, the Neurobiology of Adaptation, and "Use-dependent" Development of the Brain: How "States" become "Traits"; Infant Mental Health Journal, Vol 16, No. 4, Winter 1995

• Immediate Biological Response Associated with Trauma Exposure to violence or stress resulting in trauma alters the developing brain and activates threat responses in the child

(Perry, 1995)

When kids go through something frightening, stressful, or life altering, their personality can be permanently affected.

- Biology at Play
- Hyperarousal is the body's active way of taking on the threat.
- Dissociative behavior is "numbing" out.
- Bruce Perry
- Males tend to "externalize"
- ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Conduct Disorder
- More likely to be perpetrators
- Females tend to "internalize"
- Depression, Anxiety, and Dissociative disorders
- More likely to be victims

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Child Traumatic Stress

Trauma Affects Behavior

Children exposed to violence within the family and/or community exhibited symptoms such as:

Van der Kolk, et.al., Dissociation, Somatization, and Affect Dysregulation: The Complexity of Adaptation to Trauma; *American Journal of Psychiatry* 153:7, July 1996

- (Alan Schore)
- **An inability to manage emotions**
- **❖** Aggressive behavior

# **OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION**

- **❖** Destructive behavior
- \* Suicidal behavior
- PTSD
- **Developmental challenges**
- **❖** Isolation and loneliness
- **Problems at school, home, in the community**
- **❖** Violent behavior
- The Resulting Emotional Response
- Fear
- Confusion
- Helplessness
- Embarrassment and/or shame
- Disempowerment
- Anger
- Vulnerable
- The Resulting Physical Response
- Sleep Disturbances
- Hyperactivity
- Nervousness
- Appetite Changes
- Changes in Play
- Destructive
- Clumsiness
- Skin Changes
- A child's age and developmental level affects their response to witnessing parental arrest
- Infants and Toddlers
- React to being separated from the caregiver
- React to the sounds associated with the arrest
- React to the abruptness of the event
- 3-6 Year Olds
- Think the arrest may have something to do with them
- Learn that gender roles are associated with violence
- Exhibit regressive behaviors and feel less independent
- 6-11 Year Olds
- Concern for the safety of the parent
- · Awareness of the violence in the world and how it can affect them
- Develop an ability to mistrust the "good people," because of comments made by adult caregivers
- May imitate hostile aggression
- Exhibit regressive behavior
- Adolescents
- May try to stop the arrest
- Embarrassed by the arrest

## **OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION**

- Use maladaptive behavior to cope with the arrest and loss of parent
- May develop an unhealthy attitude toward law enforcement

In a national survey of 9-16 year olds, 25% had experienced at least one traumatic event

- Incarcerated Youth
- 90% of juvenile detainees have experienced at least one traumatic event
- Incarcerated youth have experienced more 4-8 times more physical trauma than other youth
- PTSD- 8x higher

McNally,1999; National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, 07

• Reducing Child Trauma

## Ultimately

#### **Reduces Crime**

- The Role of Law Enforcement
- Mitigating the Trauma
- It is considered best practice not to arrest parents in front of children.
- General Guidelines
- Avoid sirens and lights in a non-emergency situation and where the use is discretionary
- If the arrestee is cooperative and the situation is deemed safe, allow the arrestee to talk with the child about what is happening, prior to being handcuffed
- When it is not possible to have the parent talk with the child, have the
  police officer talk with the child, separately, in a developmentally
  appropriate manner
- · Communication with the Child
- Tips
- Use the child's name
- Use simple language
- Sit at the child's physical level
- Explain your role as a police officer is to keep the child safe
- Acknowledge the child's right to remain silent
- Recognize the child's loyalty to the parent
- · Answer any questions the child may have
- Ask one question at a time
- Avoid "why" questions
- Ensure that the child understands the question
- Ask open ended questions and use simple reflection to make sure there is clarity
- Make no assumptions about the child's abilities based on age
- Allow the child to hold onto a stuffed animal or other object for comfort
- Avoid rushing the child; let them have time to process thoughts and feelings

#### **OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION**

- Observe non-verbal communication
- REMEMBER
- The child's body is responding and this may effect his/her ability to listen, reason and retain information.
- This may also effect the child's emotional and physical responses to what is happening.
- The way this incident is handled will impact this child's future.

#### WHAT MIGHT YOU SEE?

WHAT SHOULD

**YOU** 

DO?

Intervention by police authorities may create immense relief and/or additional worries or distress for children

**Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council 2004** 

- Arresting Adults with Minor or
- Dependent Children: Protocol
- Determining if there are minor or dependent children
- If No Children Present, Ask the Arrestee
- Are there any children in your home that depend on your care?
- How many children, their ages and current location(s)?
- Is there another custodial parent available?
- Who might be available to locate the children and explain what has happened?
- If Children Are Present, Also Ask
- Are there other children you are responsible for?
- Were the child(ren) present during the incident that prompted police involvement?
- Have the child(ren) been intentionally or accidentally injured?
- Are they able to explain the situation to their child(ren)?
- In addition:
- If the arrestee is unable or does not respond to a question about the children, the officer should consider whether to look for them
- Officers should observe for physical evidence that may indicate children: toys, clothes, baby gear, car seats, etc.
- The officer should mention:

The parent may risk being charged with abuse and neglect, if information is withheld regarding their children.

- Identifying and Communicating with an Alternate Caregiver
- Is there another parent?
- · Can the arrestee identify an alternate caregiver?
  - Adult relative
  - Fictive kin
  - Child care provider
  - Temp shelter IF parent signs child in
- Can someone else identify an alternate caregiver?
- MUST CONDUCT
- Abuse/Neglect background check

## **OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION**

(505) 841-6100 Albuquerque 1-800-797-3260 Statewide

- Criminal background check
- When contacting SCI
- SCI Intake Worker will ask for badge # and superior officer's phone number
- Worker searches FACTS & gives officer info about possible caretaker
- SCI can provide info on shelters in area if needed

As long as investigation isn't compromised, tell caregiver what happened to the parent, how long they may be in jail and if/how they may be reached.

Be sure caregiver knows as much as possible about children – bedtime, medical issues, school info, special needs.

- The Role of CYFD
- CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
- **➤** High risk for physical health problems
- ➤ High risk for mental health problems
- **▶** High risk for behavioral problems
- > Lower educational achievement
- ➤ High risk to enter the juvenile justice system

Child Research Brief 2003; Child Welfare and Crime: Measuring the Effects of Foster Care 2007

- CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
- > High risk for extended foster care
- > Placement with strangers
- > Sibling splits
- **Loss connections to school, church & family**
- When all options are exhausted and no safe alternate caregiver can be found, refer to CYFD/SCI
- CYFD Statewide Central Intake (SCI) receives ALL reports of suspected child abuse or neglect
- SCI Protocol
- SCI Intake Worker asks for badge # and superior officer's phone number
- Officer reports possible abuse/neglect to SCI; SCI may assign for investigation
- Protective custody given to CYFD only after reasonable efforts to find alternative
- Statement of Reasonable Grounds
- CYFD worker will present to law enforcement
- Law enforcement must complete in order for child(ren) to be placed in protective custody with CYFD
- EMERGENCY RESPONSE Immediate danger to the alleged victim

Report staffed immediately with supervisor

Performance	Objectives
And Instructi	onal Cues

# **OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION**

#### Referred to appropriate county office

#### Response within 0-3 hours

Extreme effort made to respond as quickly

as possible

- EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIME
- SCI to field could be 30 minutes
- Rural versus urban areas
- Worker response depends on distance During workday (8-5), workers respond from office or field
- · After hours, workers respond from home
- PRIORITY 1
  - 24-Hour response time
  - No immediate danger to the child, but response within 24 hours is warranted.
  - PRIORITY 2
  - Five (5) calendar days response time
  - Alleged victim not in any immediate danger.
  - Once LE Gives Custody, CYFD
- Places the child
  - Meet licensing guidelines
- Cannot release the child from custody
- Interviews parents
- Obtains permission before entering residence
- Conducts investigation
- Determines safety plan
- PRACTICE
- Case scenario
- Take a role
- Apply protocol
- 20 minutes
- DEBRIEF
- How did your group handle the scenario?
- How did you come to this conclusion?
- Questions about the protocol?
- Recommendations
- Work collaboratively with local law enforcement agencies and CYFD.
- Have written procedures consistent with the Protocol.